

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for converting a source string comprising a plurality of source characters into a target string, the source string being encoded according to a source encoding scheme and the target string being desired to be encoded according to mixed codepages comprising a plurality of sub-codepages, the method comprising the steps of:

associating a predetermined processing priority with each sub-codepage yielding a processing priority sequence; and

converting the characters strictly according to said priority sequence using a single hardware instruction capable of processing a plurality of characters in a single invocation of the instruction.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which the priority sequence reflects the probability of finding a source character in one of said sub-codepages.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of

accessing the sub-codepage having the highest priority which has not yet been accessed for a character if said character has not been found in the current sub-codepage.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said hardware instruction is an instruction for converting a source string of characters encoded according to said source encoding scheme to a target string of characters encoded according to one of said sub-codepages.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said priority sequence is dynamically changed from a standard to an individual setting before running the code conversion.

6. (Original) A computer system having installed program means for performing the steps of a method according to claim 1.
7. (Original) The computer system according to claim 6 arranged for being used as an Internet server having installed program means for performing said method steps.
8. (Original) A chip means comprising hardware circuits implementing at least parts of the steps of a method according to claim 1.
9. (Original) A device comprising the chip according to claim 8.
10. (Previously presented) A computer program on a computer-readable medium for execution in a data processing system comprising computer program code for performing respective steps of the method according to claim 1.
11. (Original) The computer program according to claim 10 comprising a browser program.
12. (Original) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 1.
13. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said source encoding scheme is a Unicode encoding scheme.
14. (Currently amended) A method for converting a source string comprising a plurality of source characters into a target string, the source string being encoded according to a source encoding scheme and the target string being encoded according to mixed codepages comprising a plurality of sub-codepages, the method comprising the steps of:

associating a predetermined priority with each of said sub-codepages to produce a priority sequence ranging from a highest-priority sub-codepage to a lowest-priority sub-codepage, said sub-codepages other than said highest-priority sub-codepage comprising a first set of one or more higher-priority sub-codepages and a second set of one or more lower-priority sub-codepages; and

converting the characters according to said priority sequence by performing the following steps:

- (1) initially selecting the highest-priority sub-codepage as a current sub-codepage;
- (2) converting characters using the current sub-codepage;
- (3) if a character is encountered that is not contained in the current sub-codepage, then searching the other sub-codepages in priority order for a sub-codepage containing the character;
- (4) if the character is found in a sub-codepage belonging to the first set of sub-codepages, continuing with conversion with that sub-codepage as the current sub-codepage; and
- (5) if the character is found in a sub-codepage belonging to the second set of sub-codepages, converting the character using that sub-codepage and continuing with conversion with the highest-priority sub-codepage as the current sub-codepage.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14 in which the priority sequence reflects the probability of finding a source character in one of said sub-codepages.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14 in which said priority sequence is dynamically changed from a standard to an individual setting before running the code conversion.

17. (Previously presented) A computer system having installed program means for performing the steps of a method according to claim 14.
18. (Previously presented) A chip means comprising hardware circuits implementing at least parts of the steps of a method according to claim 14.
19. (Previously presented) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 14.
20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14 in which said source encoding scheme is a Unicode encoding scheme.